

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05
EB-07 NSC-05 EPG-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01
CEA-01 COME-00 JUSE-00 SEC-01 FTC-01 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01
XMB-02 FRB-03 OPIC-03 /101 W
-----022857 011433Z /45

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9322
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 9455

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, EINV, UN, ECOSOC
SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS

REF: STATE 146969 (AND PREVIOUS)

SUMMARY: AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL, AIDE MEMOIRE AND COPY OF DRAFT U.S. RESOLUTION WAS CONVEYED TO USSR MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS JUNE 30. PERSONAL REACTION OF SOVIET OFFICIALS CALLED UPON WAS CONCERN THAT PROPOSED CONFERENCE ON CORRUPT PRACTICES WOULD DETRACT FROM WORK ON UN COMMISSION ON TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND THAT ONE CONFERENCE SHOULD ADDRESS BOTH QUESTIONS, WITH CODE OF CONDUCT BEING FIRST ITEM ON ITS AGENDA. WE BELIEVE THAT US DELEGATION TO ECOSOC MEETING WILL NEED TO EXPEND CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO CONVINCE SOVIETS THAT US-PROPOSED CONFERENCE JUSTIFIED ON ITS OWN MERITS AND THAT IT WILL NOT DETRACT FROM WORK ON CODE, TO WHICH SOVIETS EVIDENTLY ATTACH CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. ON JUNE 30 EMBOFF CALLED ON G.P. LISOV, DEPUTY CHIEF OF
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INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TO DELIVER AIDE MEMOIRE AND COPY OF DRAFT US RESOLUTION, AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL. A.D. ZHUKOV, FIRST SECRETARY IN SAME DEPARTMENT AND PARTICIPANT IN PAST ECOSOC MEETINGS, WAS ALSO PRESENT. AFTER PERUSING TWO DOCUMENTS, SOVIETS RAISED QUESTIONS CONCERNING INTERRELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PROPOSED CONFERENCE ON CORRUPT PRACTICES AND WORK

OF COMMISSION ON CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS (TNC'S). EMBOFF REPLIED ALONG LINES OF TALKING POINT PROVIDED REFTEL. LISOV EXPRESSED PERSONAL OPINION THAT IF WORK OF TNC COMMISSION FINISHED ON SCHEDULED BY NEXT SUMMER, THEN CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TNC'S SHOULD BE FIRST ITEM ON AGENDA OF PROPOSED CONFERENCE, AND ONLY THEN SHOULD CONFERENCE ADDRESS INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT ON CORRUPT PRACTICES. IF WORK ON CODE NOT FINISHED BY JUNE 1978, THEN, IN LISOV'S OPINION, CONFERENCE SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL SUCH TIME AS CODE READY FOR ADOPTION. IN BOTH SOVIETS' OPINIONS, POINT 3 OF US DRAFT RESOLUTION, WHICH STATES THAT "HIGHEST PRIORITY" SHOULD BE GIVEN TO FORMATION OF CODE OF CONDUCT, CONTRADICTS REST OF RESOLUTION.

2. LISOV TOLD EMBOFF THAT HIS DEPARTMENT WILL STUDY US PROPOSAL AND THAT SOVIET DELEGATION WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH US DELEGATION ON FIRST DAY OF ECOSOC MEETING FOR DISCUSSION OF US PROPOSAL. LISOV EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR AIDE MEMOIRE AND COPY OF US DRAFT RESOLUTION, TERMING SUCH PRIOR CONSULTATIONS AS POSITIVE TREND.

3. COMMENT: IT IS EVIDENT THAT MAJOR SOVIET CONCERN IS WITH FORMULATION OF CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TNC'S AND THAT SOVIET SCRUTINY OF US PROPOSAL OF ILLICIT PAYMENTS WILL BE MADE IN THIS LIGHT. THEY UNDOUBTEDLY WOULD PREFER TO SEE CODE ADOPTED BEFORE ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON WHAT THEY SEE AS CONFIDENTIAL

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CLOSELY RELATED SUBJECT. THEY MAY WELL ARGUE THAT THE EXPENSE OF SUCH DIPLOMATIC CONFERENCES IS SO GREAT AS TO JUSTIFY HOLDING ONLY ONE CONFERENCE ON BOTH SUBJECTS (THEY RAISED QUESTION OF EXPENSES SEVERAL TIMES IN CONVERSATION). WE BELIEVE THAT US DELEGATION WILL BE FACED WITH MAJOR TASK IN CONVINCING SOVIETS THAT PRESENT US PROPOSAL WILL IN NO WAY DETRACT FROM ACHIEVEMENT OF CODE OF CONDUCT.
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Message Attributes

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